

12-14-1866

## Sidney Harper Marsh Letter to Wife - Dec. 14, 1866

Sidney H. Marsh

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Dec. 14 1866

My dear Lizzie,

I am not so situated that I can write comfortably. I am on the run all day and morning. It is too cold to sit in any bed room. I have other letters to write and then I was feeling so disconsolate That I have no spirit to write. Feel in fact that the less I thought of you the better. Still I am making some progress. Have got Two \$1000. This week definitely and some others prospectively. I have sent books for presents to you for The others. It was not cost but intrinsic worth that I was after. The Tennyson's poems for Lib. is a neat edition of The complete works. I thought this better than a [gew-gaw].

Tell James That I am going to write to him. Tell him I am daily glad that he is learning to read so well. I hope and pray That he may be a good and useful man. I hope [illegible] to guide him Through The slipping ways of manhood and give some shaping to his character and principles. And dear little Mary. Her fathers pride. I have an [intensity] of of future for her. I imagine that she will be in [intrinsic] sympathy. We shall understand each other. as only persons can that are alike. You are a mystery to me and I to you. I presume but Mary will understand me and I her. James disposition is like mine. I understand his motives and feelings but we are not going to have The oneness and sweet accord that Mary and I will have. She [will enjoy] what I do. feel as I feel more than James will. so I imagine in the future that will be. It pained me when [out there that] there was a kind of estrangement from me. I [fear] that [Mina's] influence is not just the best.

Vanity and pride are subtilly influential and the [illegible] of them and other vices of character are [some] in infancy. The Thought of This neglect or rather transfer of of their education during my absence is hard to bear. I Trust the Lord will shield and keep those dear dear children until I can be with Them again.

Lizzie my dearest wife I hope you will be careful of your precious self. Regard what I have written about nursing or rather not nursing the baby. Exercise if you can daily in the open air. I yearn a good deal these cold mornings in my journeying [illegible]. Tell father that in my judgment [illegible]. With much affection yours Sidney.